Replacement and cost of per kilometre Rail Track

2231. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total kilometres of rail track that need to be replaced; and

(b) the cost of per kilometre track at current price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) At the end of VIII Plan *i.e.* on 31.3.97, a total of 6300 kms. rail track need to be renewed.

(b) The cost of renewal of track on broad gauge at current prices is approximately Rs. 55 lakhs per km.

Production of Pulses

2232. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimates of production of pulses in the country during the first five years following independence and the five years since 1991-92;

(b) the per capita availability of pulses during the first five years following independence and the most recent quinquennium; and

(c) the reasons for the failure to achieve a major break through in production of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The estimates of Production of Pulses in the country during 1950-51 to 1954-55 and 1991-92 to 1995-96 are as follows:—

Year	Production (Million Tonnes)	Year	Production (Million Tonnes)
1950-51	8.41	1991-92	12.02
1951-52	8.42	1992-93	12.82
1952-53	9.19	1993-94	13.30
1953-54	10.62	1994-95	14.12
1954-55	10.95	1995-96	12.97

(b) The per capita availability of Pulses in the country during 1951 to 1955 and 1992-96 are as follows:—

Year	Per Capita availability (Grams per day)	Year	Per Capita availability (Grams per day)
1951	60.7	1992	34.3
1952	59.1	1993	36.2
1953	62.7	1994	37.2
1954	69.7	1995	38.1
1955	71.1	1996	34.0

(c) The reasons for failure to achieve a major breakthrough in production of pulses production in the country are attributed to cultivation of pulses under rainfed conditions and on marginal and sub-marginal lands; lack of application of desired inputs, lack of genetic and technological breakthrough, susceptibility to pests and diseases etc.

Extinction of Siberian Cranes

2233. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chances of Siberian cranes coming to Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur are receding and have plummeted to such an abysmal low that today there is just one breading pair and several non-breeding cranes of this flock in the basin of the Kunovat river, Siberia;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these cranes are being hunted during their flights;

(c) whether studies have been conducted by Government and International experts in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to save the Siberian Cranes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central flock of the Siberian Crane which winters in India at the Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Rajasthan is reported to now consist of only four birds in Kunovat basin of Siberia which include one adult pair, a single adult and a chick. Of these, only the adult pair and single adult bird have come to the Park this winter.